



For Immediate Release
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Rep. Pitts: court declares war on marriage, democracy

Washington—Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16) today issued the following statement in response to a ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court that the State Legislature must provide for full-fledged gay marriage.

“No court has the authority to do this,” said Congressman Pitts. “Voters deserve a say, their elected representatives deserve a say in what marriage is all about in this country. You cannot define marriage by judicial whim. Today, the Massachusetts court did just that, turning democracy on its head.”

The court issued the opinion today in response to a request from the state Senate about whether Vermont-style civil unions, which convey the state benefits of marriage - but not the title - would meet requirements the Court outlined in its November opinion allowing gay marriage.

The much-anticipated opinion sets the stage for next Wednesday's constitutional convention during which the Legislature will consider an amendment that would legally define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. The soonest a constitutional amendment could end up on the ballot would be 2006, meaning that until then, the high court's decision will be Massachusetts law no matter what is decided at the constitutional convention.

Congressman Pitts commented further on where this decision is taking the nation, “With each passing court decision this country moves closer to rule by judicial fiat,” said Congressman Pitts. “When we allow the courts to remove important issues facing our nation from democratic debate, we’re in trouble.

“While the Defense of Marriage Act may prevent this decision from being forced on the rest of the nation, it too may be thrown out by the courts. On the federal level, we must act to save marriage and preserve our democracy from this type judicial tyranny.”

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